

The Reclassification of Construction Occupations

A new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) will be used by all federal statistical agencies to classify occupations for collecting, calculating, and disseminating data. The new SOC system was developed by the Office of Management and Budget in response to a growing need for a universal occupational classification system. It is designed to cover all occupations in which work is performed for pay or profit and to reflect the current occupational structure in the United States.¹ The SOC is gradually replacing the existing occupational classification systems used by government agencies, with the switch completed by 2004 (*see* chart book page 12).²

The SOC classifies workers at four levels: major group, minor group, broad occupation, and detailed occupation. All occupations are clustered into one of 23 major groups. Within these major groups are 96 minor groups, 449 broad occupations, and 821 detailed occupations. Occupations with similar skills or work activities are grouped at each of the four levels to facilitate comparisons.

The SOC uses a six-digit code. The first two digits of the SOC code show the major group, the third digit represents the minor group, the fourth and fifth digits indicate the broad occupation, and the detailed occupation is shown by the sixth digit. Major group codes end with 0000, minor groups end with 000, and broad occupations end with 0. All residuals – "Other," "Miscellaneous," or "All Other" – at the detailed or broad occupation or minor-group level, contain a 9 at the level of the residual. Detailed residual occupations end in 9. Here is an example of the structure of the 2000 SOC:

47-0000 — Construction and Extraction

47-2000 — Construction Trades Workers

47-2040 — Carpet, Floor, and Tile Installers and Finishers

47-2041 — Carpet Installers

47-2042 — Floor Layers, Except Carpet, Wood, and Hard Tiles

47-2043 — Floor Sanders and Finishers

47-2044 — Tile and Marble Setters

47-4090 — Miscellaneous Construction and Related Workers

47-4091 — Segmental Pavers

47-4099 — Construction and Related Workers, All Other

Construction workers are listed primarily in 47-0000, but may also be in other occupation groups, such as Architecture and Engineering Occupations (17-0000); Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Operations (37-0000); Office and Administrative Support Occupations (43-0000); Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations, (49-0000); Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (53-0000), and Production Occupations (51-0000). Under 47-0000, occupations are divided into five minor groups (chart 24). Under the minor groups, occupations are coded according to job requirements. For example, construction helpers and laborers, which were coded under Handlers, Equipment Cleaners, Helpers, and Laborers in the old system, are coded mainly in 47-3000, Helpers, Construction Trades. Different types of laborers and helpers are coded separately, such as, 47-2061, Construction Laborers; 47-3012, Helpers – Carpenters; 47-3011, Helpers – Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters; 47-3013, Helpers – Electricians; and 47-3016, Helpers – Roofers.

1. *Revising the Standard Occupational Classification System*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 1999, Report 929. www.bls.gov/soc/soc rpt929.pdf ; The SOC manual can be ordered from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Technical Information Service; call 703-605-6000 or 1-800-553-NTIS (6847), or visit www.bls.gov/soc/

2. This is the schedule for implementation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics: Occupational Employment Statistics (1999), Office of Employment Projections (2001), Current Population Survey (2003), Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (2004), Locality Wage Levels (2004), National and Census Division Publications (2004), Integrated Benefit Provision Products (2004), Employment Cost Index (2004), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (2003), and Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (2003).

24. Broad occupations in construction and extraction, 2000 SOC

Code	Occupation	Code	Occupation
47-1000	Supervisors, Construction and Extraction Workers	47-3000	Helpers, Construction Trades
47-1010	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	47-3010	Helpers, Construction Trades
47-2000	Construction Trades Workers	47-4000	Other Construction and Related Workers
47-2010	Boilermakers	47-4010	Construction and Building Inspectors
47-2020	Brickmasons, Blockmasons, and Stonemasons	47-4020	Elevator Installers and Repairers
47-2030	Carpenters	47-4030	Fence Erectors
47-2040	Carpet, Floor, and Tile Installers and Finishers	47-4040	Hazardous Materials Removal Workers
47-2050	Cement Masons, Concrete Finishers, and Terrazzo Workers	47-4050	Highway Maintenance Workers
47-2060	Construction Laborers	47-4060	Rail-Track Laying and Maintenance Equipment Operators
47-2070	Construction Equipment Operators	47-4070	Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners
47-2080	Drywall Installers, Ceiling Tile Installers, and Tapers	47-4090	Miscellaneous Construction and Related Workers
47-2110	Electricians	47-5000	Extraction Workers
47-2120	Glaziers	47-5010	Derrick, Rotary Drill, and Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining
47-2130	Insulation Workers	47-5020	Earth Drillers, Except Oil and Gas
47-2140	Painters and Paperhangers	47-5030	Explosives Workers, Ordnance Handling Experts, and Blasters
47-2150	Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	47-5040	Mining Machine Operators
47-2160	Plasterers and Stucco Masons	47-5050	Rock Splitters, Quarry
47-2170	Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers	47-5060	Roof Bolters, Mining
47-2180	Roofers	47-5070	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas
47-2210	Sheet Metal Workers	47-5080	Helpers--Extraction Workers
47-2220	Structural Iron and Steel Workers	47-5090	Miscellaneous Extraction Workers